TYCI

FREE!

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SHONEN KNIFE

Sophie Kromholz went behind the scenes to speak to the iconic Japanese band at their most recent Glasgow show.

How would you describe Shonen Knife to someone who's never heard your music before? What's your sound and who are you?

NAOKO YAMANO: Our music is very unique. We are thee Japanese females. And wearing matching dresses. The melody lines are very pop and our lyrics are sometimes about cute animals and delicious chocolate. And if people listen to our music, people can be happy.

How did you get into music in the first place? What's the story of the band?

NAOKO: I liked to listen to American or British rock or hard rock when I was a teenager and then I wanted to do something interesting, because I was bored in daily life. I wanted to be like a rock musician like the Ramones, the Buzzcocks, the Jam. I asked my friend Mitchie and my younger sister Atsuko to be members and then started some gigs.

Tell us a bit about your songwriting process.

NAOKO: At the beginning I picked up some words, key words from my daily life for my lyrics and then I expanded to the lyrics from the one or two words and

then I put a melody line on it.

Who / what inspires your writing? Who are your musical heroes?

NAOKO: I like the Beatles the best. And then I am inspired by late '70s pop / punk bands. For our new album Overdrive, I was inspired by '70s rock and hard rock bands like Thin Lizzie, Black Sabbath, Deep Purple.

Are there any new musical influences or people you are inspired by that you think TYCI listeners and readers should check out?

Ritsuko Taneda: I like Teenage Fan club a lot. I like Glasgow music a lot. BMX Bandits!

What's the best part of being in a band?

Naoko: Meeting various fantastic people all over the world.

You have a very aesthetic image. Is there something you are playing with or trying to communicate with your look?

Naoko: If we go up to the stage with our daily clothes, we are not prominent. The audience are more fashionable than us.

Do you experience differences in being female musicians now and how you are treated, compared to when you started out in the '80s?

Naoko: I think from our side there is no change. Being in a female band is always easy and happy. But the numbers of female bands are increasing now, but in the early '80s the numbers of female bands were low. So we were rather lucky to be in a female band.

What advice would you offer to other women in the music industry?

Naoko: I don't have special advice for female. I don't mind female or male, but I'd like to tell people to keep making unique music and believing in their creativity.

Ritsuko: And please keep covering Shonen Knife songs. Especially young female bands.

What are your other upcoming plans for 2014?

Naoko: After the British and European tour, we go back and do a Japanese tour, and then have a North American tour this autumn. Then we might go to Australia and some other countries. And then I have to start writing new songs. Very busy.

THIS IS AN EXCERPT. TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE, VISIT TYCI.ORG.UK. FOR MORE ON THE BAND, HEAD TO SHONENKNIFE.NET.

GIRLS LIKE US

Lauren Mayberry speaks to filmmaker Sing J Lee and national boxing champion Molly Perkins about a short documentary focusing on the female athlete.

For TYCI readers who don't know about Girls Like Us yet, how would you describe it?

SING: Girls Like Us is a short intimate portrait of young female National Champion and the challenges she faces within the world of UK Amateur Boxing.

MOLLY: It's showing people that female boxing is on the map now and us females in the sport are just as good as the boys and sometimes better.

How did the idea for the film come about?

SING: My good friend and Italian producer Alessandra Sutto and I discovered the intriguing story of Sadaf Rahimi, a young Afghan boxer and her frustrating journey to the last Olympics. We wanted to come up with a multi-narrative film that centred on female boxing in different cultures, the challenges they faced in their respective countries. This teaser was our visual pitch and a test to see if we could build on it.

What do you hope people take away from watching it?

SING: For a sport that's so heavily invested in its male categories, it's surprising, or maybe sadly unsurprising, how the female side of the sport is so vastly overshadowed by it, and it deserves the chance to be taken seriously. That's what I'd like to highlight.

Would you describe boxing as a "boys' club"? And, if so, what advice would you give to female TYCI readers trying to make it in male dominated industries?

MOLLY: Boxing is mainly a boys' sport, but in the last five years it's become more popular with females joining the sport and since the Olympics there have been a lot more females join which is great. If I'm honest, I advise TYCI readers to do what makes you happy and don't listen to people saying you shouldn't do it… If I listened to people when I first started boxing, I wouldn't be doing it today. My friends at first couldn't understand why I wanted to do a sport which involved getting punched. But the thing is why stop something that you love and that makes you happy. Prove people wrong like I did.

THIS IS AN EXCERPT. TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE, VISIT TYCI.ORG.UK. FOR MORE ON THE DOCUMENTARY, HEAD TO SINGJLEE.COM.

GIRLS SKATE NETWORK

Lisa Whitaker has been a driving force behind creating a platform for female skateboarders. Shawn Durham speaks to Whitaker about her work.

What is Girls Skate Network?

Girls Skate Network is a website devoted to making girls skateboarding more visible. It started in 2003 as a test site as I was attempting to learn web design. I needed content to build the site, so I just used what I had on my computer at the time... photos and video of my friends (who just happened to be the best female skaters in the world) skateboarding. I never expected anyone other than my friends and I to see it, but shortly after it went up I started receiving e-mails from girls around the world who were inspired by the content… I remember what a huge impact seeing the few photos or video clips of other girls skating had on me growing up, so that and the feedback I get keeps me motivated to keep the site going.

You recently started Meow Skateboards, a company which sponsors and highlights women skaters. Why do you feel this is necessary?

I was at the X Games a couple years ago and realised only one or two of the top ten female street skaters in the world had a board sponsor that actually promoted and included them as a part of the real team, the rest of them were just flowed product. Hoopla

and Silly Girl were around at the time and doing a great job supporting a handful of girls, but they didn't fit the style of most of the street skaters.

How do you think the women's skateboarding scene has changed in the last decade? Where do you see it heading?

I think the women's skate scene is slowly becoming more and more visible due to the internet and social media… Funny thing is I grew up skating with all guys and I never felt different or alone, so if you have a good group of supportive friends it don't matter if they are guys or girls. My hope is that as it becomes more visible young girls are given it as an option to try, because in the past a lot of people wrote it off as just for boys.

THIS IS AN EXCERPT. TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE, VISIT TYCI.ORG.UK. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON LISA'S PROJECTS, VISIT GIRLSSKATENETWORK.COM AND MEOWSKATEBOARDS.COM.

MY RAD FAT DIARY

The second entry in a new monthly feature by Halina Rifai.

This is my least favourite season of the year. I can envisage the creased foreheads and perplexed looks. Summer? Sunny, blue skies, warm air? It is bullshit.

There is one main reason! People start to wear less clothes and expose more skin. I can't afford to do that. People are disgusted by me as it is so if I show even more of my Michelin tyres I risk people not being able to keep their picnics down.

It has been a really hard month. I have now lost 27lbs, so only 5lbs this month which is really disappointing. I am 1lb away from 2 stone, but I look at myself and think, *"Fuck sake, you are still the size of a Southern Elephant Seal! How much will it take to look normal?"*

Patience is probably the greatest thing you need when losing weight and, unfortunately, I am one of

the most impatient people you are likely to meet. I just really would love to know who decided that we had to have a symmetrical face, all our limbs and a particular body size. I don't want to look like bloody Kim Kardashian, I don't want to look like bloody Cheryl Cole, I just want to look like me and be happy. I have this worry that if and when I reach that goal size, I am just going to disappear into the high street crowd like everyone else. The millions of pairs of denim shorts walking down with their Primark tops and straightened hair. In a funny way, this fatty boombatty sets me apart and a percentage of me is thankful for that.

There was a comment on the last blog that I found interesting from someone called 'Viktor'. They said, *"Is there some way to tag this, and future posts like this, with "trigger word: dieting" or similar? You seem like a cool person, and I don't think you would ever fat-shame, but I've been exposed to so much hateful shit from weight-nazis that I get anxiety just from hearing about weight loss. And I don't want to have to scratch TYCI from my reading list."*

I have to admit I got my back up a bit, but then after a few hours thinking about it, I felt really sorry for the person. The problems in our lives tend to make us immediately want to hide. Fear is crippling and I know we worry too much about what others think. I suppose the reason for that is it either a) makes you think it is a representation of what the world thinks or b) is secretly what you think deep down about yourself, but are too scared to admit it.

The weigh ins have got easier. I still get a few palpitations before getting on the scales. I joked on Twitter not so long ago that I was going to wrap myself in cling film and make myself into a Ballotine of Halina to try and shift something more.

Hopefully next month I will be well over the 2 stone. The House of Chunk is on a mission.

Halina x

FOR MORE OF HALINA'S WRITING AND OTHER ENTRIES IN THE RAD FAT DIARY SERIES, VISIT TYCI.ORG.UK

Five Things:
The Worst Lesbian Films

For the latest in TYCI's Five Things series, Ciara Maguire turns to film.

1. Gigola

I went to see Gigola under the illusion it would be some cultured and sophisticated depiction of French lesbians in suits. I was wrong; there were lesbians in suits, and that was very exciting, but the cringy dialogue, terrible acting, and bad 70s porno soundtrack left a lot to be desired. The film follows Gigola, a Parisian pimp, who skulks about with a cane and a cigar, bedding lots of women whilst not actually being all that nice to them (or very good at pick up lines). To be honest I can't remember much about this film other than cringing into my cinema seat, and a bizarre pregnancy themed plot twist, but I'm not in any hurry to refresh my memory.

2. Loving Annabelle

Loving Annabelle is a controversial film, dividing opinion between the lesbian community. Some see it as the ultimate forbidden love story, complete with a rebellious, tartan skirt clad teenager (Annabelle) and sexy school teacher (Simone), but for others it's a borderline creepy cliché. I fall into the latter camp - the angsty teen guitar playing and teary church confessions are all a bit much. It sort of reminds me of a weird, X-rated, lesbian version of Matilda, with the whole young-outsider-girl finding solace in a kind, older woman. Except instead of being really good at maths, Annabelle is really good at smoking and sultry eye contact, and instead of adopting Annabelle, Simone bones her. Okay, maybe that wasn't the best comparison but you catch my drift.

3. Jack and Diane

Featuring scary werewolf-esque monsters, Kylie Minogue and a random pube-shaving disaster, this is definitely one of the weirdest films I've ever seen.

The unexpected transition from offbeat, indie love story to fucked up, disturbing horror film meant that I got such a fright I tried to stand up inside the bed fort I was watching it in and caused the whole thing to collapse in on me and my friend, which was probably the least traumatic part of the whole Jack and Diane experience. The whole thing is redeemed, however, by Riley Keoughs turn as a moody, scruffy butch babe (aka My Type). Worth a watch just for that.

4. BLOOMINGTON

Another student / teacher themed shenanigan, Bloomington features an ex-sci fi film child star and her lady lovin' lothario lecturer (there's an L Word episode title for ya). In a shockingly realistic turn of events, the couple meet at a campus introduction day, where the Lothario Lecturer approaches the Sci Fi Child Star and goes in for a winch after approximately 3.5 seconds, before uttering that age old classic line, "Do you want to come back to my place?" Not that I'm judging, I used that line on my current girlfriend on our first date and LOOK AT US NOW. OK, it was also followed by "..to watch My Cat from Hell", but that's beside the point. Like my own great romance, theirs flourished, but unlike mine, theirs ended when Sci Fi Child Star realised the lure of the silver screen was too strong and she had to leave her lady love behind to pursue her dreams of sitting in a pretend space ship every day.

5. INESCAPABLE

Saving the best, or worst, to last - Inescapable is potentially not just the worst lesbian film I've seen, but the worst film I've seen ever. Potentially the worst film to even exist. I watched this for the first time last week with my flatmates, and we spent the entirety of the film in a state of sheer disbelief that something this terrible could have actually been made. It almost felt like a cruel trick, and I was half expecting a 'gotcha!' style revelation at the end, reassuring us that it was all a big joke and no-one actually put time and money and effort into producing this monstrosity. The premise of the film is nothing unique - two lesbian couples shack up for the weekend and one half of each couple wind up having a saucy secret affair. It could have been pretty inoffensive, but contrived, awkward dialogue, ridiculously obvious clichés and a complete and utter lack of chemistry make this film painful to sit through. Highlights include the illicit couple proclaiming their love for one another after two days with literally no conversation, and a hilariously bad 'are-they-about-to-get-caught' scene where one half of the couple literally hides behind a door. BEHIND A DOOR. If you have a couple of hours to spare and nothing else to do but jam forks in your eyes, I'd still give it a miss.

THIS IS AN EXCERPT. TO READ THE FULL ARTICLE AND READ MORE IN OUR FIVE THINGS SERIES, VISIT TYCI.ORG.UK.

Why I Heart: First Aid Kit

Nellie Gayle talks about her love for First Aid Kit.

My first recollection of really, truly listening to music and falling in love with it was during me and my mother's seasonal road trips between Montana and South Dakota. My parents are divorced, so I split my time between both prairie states for a number of years as a little kid. Those six-hour road trips were a fantastic introduction to country and folk music as my mom knew it. The bluegrass influence, the traces of folk, and the pining for better days while managing to romanticise downtrodden ones; that was how I originally understood country and folk. Driving through desolate prairie landscapes while listening to June Carter warble to Johnny Cash was pretty magical in retrospect. I was converted to the genre, but later let the country love fall by the wayside.

Discovering First Aid Kit in the past few weeks, however, has rekindled the country / folk / bluegrass fire and made me nostalgic for those long car trips. First Aid

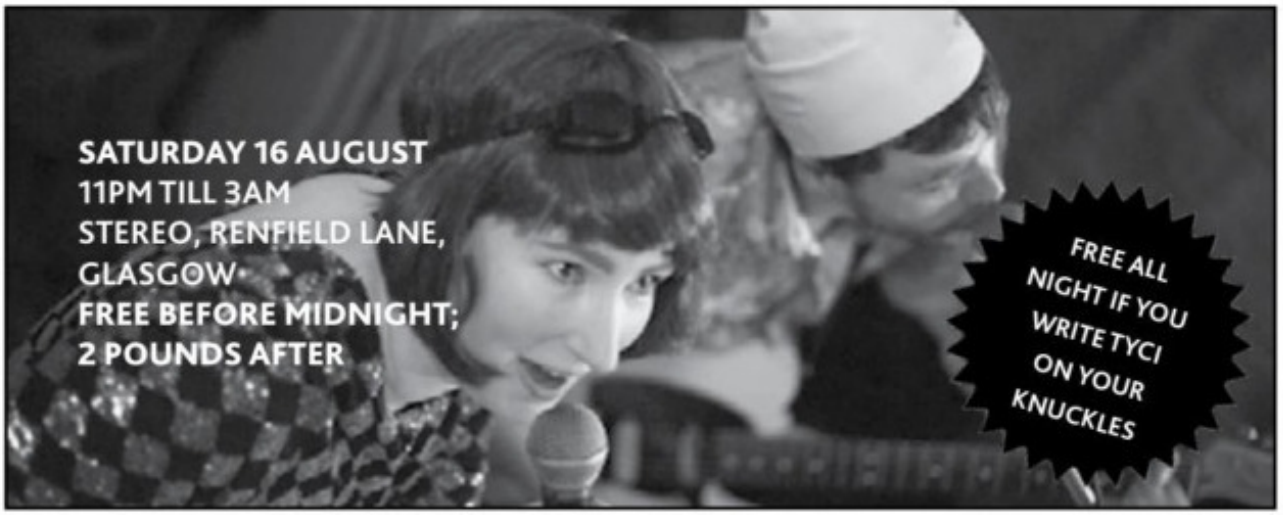
Kit is comprised of two sisters - Johanna and Klara Soderberg - who hail from Sweden and grew up listening to indie folk and classic American country. Whilst they are true fangirls of Bright Eyes and Fleet Foxes, their sound is so distinctly reminiscent of the country I grew up with that I almost cried when I first heard it. The sorrowful, sweet twangy-ness of old Americana, on their newest album, Stay Gold, is perhaps the best representation of old-school country and folk music I've heard since my June Carter-saturated childhood.

In Waitress Song, they lament, "I remember sleepless nights / I remember Chicago / I remember the music / From the downstairs bar." The fact that they grew up in Stockholm hardly matters - they evoke the spirit of Loretta Lynn reminiscing over her dirt-poor childhood in Butcher Holler, if only Loretta were transplanted to the millennial age. Their songs are distinctly independent, featuring themes of adventure, loneliness, and fierce loyalty. These ideas are central to country, folk, and bluegrass, but are often abandoned by Toby Keith and Kenny Chesney in favour of mocking a girl who "did them wrong."

The fact that two Swedes manage to encapsulate the spirit of Americana tunes so well is a testament to the far reach of the genre, but it's also a testament to the Soderbergs themselves They constantly play music festivals that one would assume are unlikely to accept folk music (following up a Skrillex set with a banjo is unexpected, to say the least). But who wouldn't love them? Their optimistic zeal and respect for the genre's predecessors shines through. They represent a rebranding of a classic genre, but for once I don't feel like the country music I'm hearing is a betrayal of the soulful strumming I grew up with. It feels genuine and heartfelt - two attributes I hope the Soderbergs will carry with them as they continue to gather acclaim.

STAY GOLD IS OUT NOW. FOR MORE ON FIRST AID KIT, HEAD TO THISISFIRSTAIDKIT.COM. FOR MORE OF NELLIE'S WORK, VISIT LOW-ON-KNOW-HOW.TUMBLR.COM, AND FOR MORE IN TYCI'S WHY I HEART SERIES, GO TO TYCI.ORG.UK.

TYCI LIVE



FOR OUR **AUGUST EVENT**, WE'RE RELOCATING TO **STEREO** TO HOST GLASGOW ART-THEATRE-MUSIC FUSION ACT **SWIM TEAM** AND **ALL THE RAGE DJS**.

PROCEEDS FROM AUGUST'S RAFFLE WILL GO TO **PROSTATE CANCER UK**.

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The latest episode of the TYCI podcast is online now and can be found at soundcloud.com/tyciblog. Our next Subcity show will be Thursday 14 August, 5 - 7pm. Tune in at subcity.org/shows/tyci.

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TYCI is a collective run by women.

We have a website where we write about things which affect us and put together features on art, theatre, music, film, politics, current affairs and most things in between. We also talk about similar stuff on our monthly podcasts and radio show on Subcity.

This zine is a collection of some of the content from our site and is distributed in conjunction with our monthly live events.

If you would like to get involved, reply to any of our articles or just generally say hi, hit us up on contact.tyci@gmail.com or visit tyci.org.uk.

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